March comes in like a lion

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3月のライオン

Chapter. 8

Comparison

I SEE IT.

WHAT?

UM...

I WON, RIGHT?

YES?

Uh...

OH...

WHATEVER. EVEN IF IT'S JUST BY APPEARANCE, IT'S STILL A VICTORY.

APPEAR-ANCE... IT SHOULD BE "*REALITY*."

SFX: JARA.. (CLATTER..)

THEN CAN'T YOU JUST USE THE RANGING ROOK TECHNIQUE?

Ehh...

You do things too swiftly! Using the bishop exchange and stuff like that, I won't be able to have things go my way!!

Small!! You're small, Kiriyama!!

I'm part of the static rook group!!

SFX: FUU... (SIGH...)

ARE YOU HAPPY NOW?

AH... YES, YES. I KNOW. YOU "WON," ALRIGHT?

W-Wait! What's that supposed to mean!?

Are you trying to say, "Oh... Whatever, okay?"

OKAY. LET'S GO AGAIN.

THAT WAY, I'LL BEGIN WITH A STATIC ROOK AND YOU CAN USE THE BISHOP EXCHANGE AGAIN.

THIS TIME I'LL START.

EHH!?

Also, what do you mean by this!? Am I only a practice partner?!

SFX: BARA (RATTLE)

Why must you keep using techniques that I'm not good against!?

I'VE HAD ENOUGH. I'VE ALREADY SAID THAT STUDYING BY MYSELF IS MORE SUITED FOR MY PERSONALITY...

Do you know how great of a loss it is to your shogi life to lose an important partner who can help raise your playing abilities!?

You do know, don't you, Kiriyama!?

SFX: HAAA (SIGH)

WE'LL CALL IT THE NIKAIDOU VACCINE.

SFX: NI (SMILE)

TO BE PRECISE, IT'S YOU WHO NEEDS TO FIND A METHOD!

THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO FIND A METHOD WITH OUR COMBINED EFFORTS...

WE NEED TO WORK EFFI-CIENTLY...

...YES!

THE WONDER DRUG KNOWN AS "THE BISHOP EXCHANGE COUNTER-ATTACK..."

SFX: KII KII (SCREECH SCREECH)
SFX: BUU BUU (PFFT PFFT)
SFX: HAA HAA (HAH HAH)

SFX: BAROOH (BAH!)

But it's not the same!!

Shouldn't it be the "Kiriyama Vaccine" then?

キーキー

Do you really not under-stand this!?

If you put your name in it, then you'll be known even in later generations!!

Something like "Nikaidou Vaccine" or "Nikaidou Immune System!"

I get that a lot.

I GET IT...

BUT I WISH I DIDN'T!!

On days without matches, what do professional shogi players do?

...Yes.
The answer is
"training."

It's true that
"matches" only occur a
few times a month.

But they are the same as
the "matches" that they have
in baseball or boxing.

So what do these
"athletes" do on days where
there are no matches...?

There are only a few matches each month, right?

You'll be fine just working a few days a month. What an easy life.

...I've gotten that too.

Shogi players are the same as athletes. On days with no games, they have to "train (study)."

studying and walking through the millions of kifu left by players before us,

Holding study sessions with fellow shogi players,

and discussing new methods...

JUST LET ME BE...

I'VE ALREADY SAID THAT I'M THE TYPE WHO DOES BETTER WHEN I STUDY ALONE...

Weary...

SFX: GUGOGUGYURUUUUUMUMU... (GRRGRRRUUMMMLE...)

"グゴグギュルーム"

You

want to

eat?

ガックリ...

Defeated

SFX: KAOKARI..... (DISAPPOINTED)

SFX: PIAUU! (BRONNNN!)

...HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING!?

I'M TALKING TO YOU!

ピーピー

YOU CAME AT 9AM WITHOUT ANY INVITATION AT ALL, SAYING, "LET'S DEVELOP A WONDER DRUG!!" OR SOMETHING...

AND I'M AN ALL-ROUNDER, EVEN THOUGH THAT DOESN'T REALLY HAVE TO DO WITH ANY-THING...

G'MORNING!!

Also brought bento boxes over. (He's awfully healthy.)

弁当

EHH..

LABEL: BENTO

SFX: DARA DARA (DRIP DRIP)

KIRIYAMA, WHAT DO YOU NORMALLY EAT?

.....

ME? WHEN I'M ALONE.

I GUESS IT'S BREAD, NIKO NIKO BENTO, MECS, OR YOSHIDAYA'S BEEF BOWLS.

No, too plain!!

Giga Mec..?

SOME-THING FAST AND EASY...

...WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT?

OH YEAH, HOW ABOUT MECDNALD? NIKAIDOU SHOULD LIKE THE GIGA MEC, RIGHT?

Mecdnald

Mecdnald

メクドナルド

ギガメック: GIGA MEC
人気: POPULAR
ナンバーワン!!: NUMBER ONE
メクドナルド: MECDNALD

SFX: FURU FURU FURU... (TREMBLE TREMBLE TREMBLE...)

Bodoro!

Bodoro!!!

SFX: BASSHOOO! (BRAUGH!!!)

SFX: BAIIN (BOIING)

SFX: DON (THUD)

MOMO-CHAN!?

WHAT'S WRONG?

Where's Onee-chan?

フル

フル

フル

AH... BUT LATELY,

I SOMETIMES GO OVER TO A FRIEND'S HOUSE TO EAT DINNER...

HM?

KIRIYAMA, IS THIS YOUR FRIEND?

AH...

UM...

YEA...

JUST NOW, IF I AM NOT MISTAKEN...

IT SEEMS THAT I HEARD THIS ONE CALLING ME "BODORO..."

SFX: BASHI (GRAB)

SCANLATOR'S NOTE:
FROM THIS POINT ONWARDS, NIKAIDOU'S MANNER OF SPEECH TOWARDS THE KANAMOTO FAMILY BECOMES MORE OLD-FASHIONED.

WELL,

I DO SENSE A DEEP CONNEC-TION...

ALL RIGHT, LITTLE ONE, LET ME ASK FOR YOUR NAME... WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

WITH THE "INTELLIGENT" PART.

THAT FAMOUS ANIMATED FILM LOVED BY CHILDREN AND ADULTS ALIKE (I ALSO REALLY ENJOYED IT.)

BODORO SHOULD BE THAT?

THAT MYSTERI-OUS...

ABOUT AN "INTELLIGENT LIFE FORM" WHO LIVED IN THE FOREST.

SFX: FU (HMPH)

Momo!

WHERE IS YOUR HOME? I SHALL TAKE YOU BACK.

Momo-chan seems to be really happy. (Happier than with me)

ALL RIGHT THEN. MOMO-KUN, GIVE ME YOUR HAND.

THE CARS PASSING BY ARE QUITE DANGEROUS.

GENTLEMAN

boddo-ro

boddo-ro

boddo-ro

UM... REI-KUN.

THIS IS...?

...Eh!? Akari-san!?

Why is her face all red!?

SFX: KIRI (SHARP)

Ah.

There she is! Momo ★

She's with Kiriyama-kun!!

Heey, Kiriyama-kuun!

U-UM...

UM, FROM MY CLUB...

THIS IS, UH, FROM SHOGI...

It can't be... Akari-san's love at first sight...

I AM KIRIYAMA-KUN'S BEST FRIEND.

NICE TO MEET YOU!

MY NAME IS NIKAIDOU HARUBOU.

is this guy!?

SFX: HAKI HAKI (CONCISE)

Have you eaten yet? If you don't mind, would you like to come over for dinner?

SFX: MOJI MOJI (TIMID)

Onei-chan is "feeding someone else's kid again!?"

Eh!?

THIS HOME IS QUITE OLD, ISN'T IT

IT LOOKS LIKE A MOVIE SET

Hey~ Hey~ Bodoro, fold some more!

With utmost appreciation. It would certainly be my pleasure!!

Huh... Ah!

SFX: BISHI (SMACK)

CLOTH: EIN (GOLD)

FLAG: KOKON ICHI (JAPAN #1)

SFX: MOCCHRI (MOCHI-LIKE)

SFX: HOU... .. (BLOW)

ポー

No No.. Hina, you don't have to apologize.

S-Sorry, Kiriyama-kun...

SFX: PDOO (DAZED)

SFX: TSUYA TSUYA (SMOOTH AND SHINY)

SFX: PURI PURI (PLUMP PLUMP)

SFX: DOKI DOKI DOKI DOKI. (BADUM BADUM BADUM BADUM BADUM.) SFX: TOKUN TOKUN. (BADUMP BADUMP)

Sorry. Ono-chan's quirk is for round and plump things... I really am very sorry.

Like.. a ball..!? I've never heard someone describe a friend like that..

HE'S LIKE A ROUND, SHINING BALL.. WHAT A WONDERFUL FRIEND...

AH... KIRIYAMA-KUN, WHAT SHOULD I SAY?

トクン トクン

AH.

HAM-BURGER...

SFX: GU (GRIP)

NO..

PERHAPS A LIGHTLY SEASONED DISH WITH A MODERATE AMOUNT OF PROTEIN..

UH .. UM, I-I'M SORRY

ANY— ANYTHING WILL BE FINE.

I WILL EAT ANYTHING

KARAAGE? HAM-BURGER?

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT?

TODAY WAS SHOPPING DAY, SO I BOUGHT A LOT OF THINGS. I CAN PRETTY MUCH MAKE ANYTHING

SFX: ぴしっ

.....

SFX: ASUMI (WHAT)

You can't do that... If you want to diet, then that beautiful figure like a ball will... Ah... But then again, he's probably worried a lot, right? He's at that age... Facing obesity at a young age... Ahh!? Could it be even more serious than that?! Could it be...!? He already has Type II diabetes at such a young age!? Or maybe this isn't meat but actually water puffiness? Maybe it's a kidney problem!? That would be terrible...

How strange... It's impossible to depend on such simple dishes to keep such a full figure... Could it be a diet!?

AH . IS THAT THE CASE...

I'M SUR-PRISED... YOU HAVE THE TASTE OF AN ADULT.

SFX: DOKI DOKI DOKI DOKI DOKI (BADUM BADUM BADUM BADUM BADUM)

Sorry for the hassle, Akari...

OBAA-CHAN, WHO HAD BAD KIDNEYS.

It's really good...

Didn't I say not to say that kind of thing?

After all, I didn't take care of my grandmother or lend an ear to customers at the store just for show!!!

No matter how attractive your plumpness is, if you don't have your health, then all meaning is lost!

Leave it to me!

Don't worry!!!

Gasp, what can I possibly eat...?

I can't eat melon or bamboo shoots...

I can't do it, Akari-san.

Ah... Yamamoto-sama... I feel so bad for you...

I can't even drink alcohol... I'm only allowed to drink very little...

Then, let me try to experiment with a snack that's "lightly seasoned" to complement your drinks!!! I'll go online to search for one!!!

SFX: SUSUN (SNIFFLE)

FAN: TAIKIN (LOTS OF MONEY)

AH... WHAT A WONDERFUL JIIYA-SAN.

THAT'S WONDERFUL. MAKE SURE TO BLOW ON YOUR SOUP AND EAT SLOWLY.

IT'S REALLY GOOD...

Even though it's lightly seasoned...

OKAY, EAT UP.

NIKAIDOU-KUN, FEEL FREE TO SEASON IT TO YOUR TASTE.

HAHA...

JIIYA ALWAYS TOLD ME TO BLOW AT LEAST 30 TIMES.

YES.

But I'm always too impatient, so I can't do it...

SFX: MARI MARI.... (NAM NAM...)

SFX: MORI MORI MURI MURI

※ Influenced, so is also blowing hard.

SFX: MORI MORI MORI MORI MORI MORI

.....

Neglected by Akari-onei-chan. Somehow or other, quite lonely...

ピンポーン♪

OH...

WHO COULD IT BE AT THIS HOUR...?

I'M DEEPLY SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU AT THIS HOUR...

I HEAR THAT OBOCCHAMA IS ENJOYING YOUR HOSPITALITY...

Oh, Hanaoka! Are you here to take me home!?

SFX: PIN POON (DING DOONG)

I USED MY GPS OF COURSE...

AHEM AHEM HACK COUGH

AH, EXCUSE ME.

My lungs are just...

I JUST HAPPENED TO PASS BY...

Ah, Nikaidou-kun? How did you find this place? ★

SFX: GOFUN GOHON (COUGH COUGH)

Ever since I was a child it's been like that, like magic!

No matter where or when, Jiiya always comes to take me home!

hehe

Magic!?

Wait, Nikaidou! I think you're being stalked!?

Just now, that person said GPS!! He definitely did!!!

SFX: KYAA (SHRIEK)

WHAT A COINCI-DENCE!

I REALLY LIKE EATING THIS TOO!

Very much so!

AH...

IT'S MY FAVORITE SNACK.

OH MY.

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO...

IT'S FROM AROUND HERE, SO YOU MAY ALREADY KNOW OF THIS, BUT...

UM... THIS IS...

IF YOU DON'T MIND, PLEASE SHARE THIS WITH EVERY-ONE.

PLEASE COME IN!

HINA, CAN YOU BOIL SOME WATER?

OH...

IF IT'S ALRIGHT, THEN I'D LOVE TO.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT WITH US? WE'LL MAKE SOME TEA!!

UM, IF YOU'D LIKE, PLEASE COME IN AND SIT.

Yes.

Chapter 8 end

NOTES from the translators

Page 03

Static rook is where the player does not move the rook at the start. For shogi openings, some people tend to only use static rook. Others only use ranging rook, while some will use both.

Bishop exchange is where the white player (second to go) trades their bishop with their opponent's bishop on 8h.

Ranging rook is where you shift the rook to the left-hand side or the central tile.

Page 05

A *kifu* is a record of a game such as shogi or go.

Page 06

Yoshidaya is a reference to the actual chain Yoshinoya, a leading fast food chain in Japan famous for its beef bowls.

Page 07

Bodoro is a reference to Studio Ghibli's 1988 film, *Tonari no Totoro*.

Page 10

Bottom panel, on the left is Kintaro and on the right is Momotaro, heroes from Japanese folklore.